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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Items 10, 38, 80 and 81 of the
preliminary list*
REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON
THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION
SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM
OF THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS TO
PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR
RESTORED DEMOCRACIES
CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE
DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND
STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL
(BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN WEAPONS AND
ON THEIR DESTRUCTION
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 30 April 1997 from the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan and Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to submit herewith the text of resolution 1119 (1997) on conflicts in Transcaucasia adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on 22 April 1997.

We should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 10, 38, 80 and 81 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Eldar KOULIEV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Azerbaijan to the United Nations

(Signed) Peter CHKHEIDZE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Georgia to the United Nations

* A/52/50.

ANNEX

[Original: English, French and Russian]

Resolution 1119 (1997) on conflicts in Transcaucasia adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on 22 April 1997

1. The Assembly considers that the holding of the ceasefires in force in the Transcaucasian conflicts, particularly in Abkhazia and Nagorny Karabakh since May 1994, should help to bring about political stabilization in the zones of tension.

2. Following the various hearings held by its Committee on Relations with European Non-Member Countries, it hopes that rapid, decisive progress towards a political settlement of these conflicts will be made.

3. The three Transcaucasian countries - Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia - all hold special guest status and have applied for full membership of the Council of Europe. The Assembly considers that a genuine political will by all the parties to settle these conflicts would help to speed up the accession procedures.

4. The Assembly appeals to all parties directly or indirectly involved in these conflicts to participate constructively in the mediation work conducted on the ground, particularly by the United Nations, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

5. Even though these two conflicts are different in nature, the Assembly stresses that their political settlement must be negotiated by all parties involved, drawing in particular on the following principles, which are based on the 1975 Helsinki Final Act and the 1990 Charter of Paris:

(i) Inviolability of borders;

(ii) Guaranteed security for all peoples in the areas concerned, particularly through multinational peacekeeping forces;

(iii) Extensive autonomy status for Abkhazia and Nagorny Karabakh to be negotiated by all the parties concerned;

(iv) Right of return of refugees and displaced persons and their reintegration while respecting their human rights.

6. The Assembly considers that, in the Transcaucasian countries, the Council of Europe should make a genuine contribution to establishing a State based on the rule of law and pluralist democracy, the protection of human rights and the creation of a social market economy.

(a) In connection with Abkhazia:

7. The Assembly is interested to note certain signs of rapprochement of the positions of Tbilisi and Sukhumi and hopes that a negotiated political settlement will soon be reached on the basis of the above-mentioned principles.

8. It hopes that the efforts of the parties concerned and also of the United Nations, OSCE and the Russian Federation will soon lead to an institutional balance acceptable to both Tbilisi and Sukhumi, so that the refugees can return under optimum security conditions and the populations of the region can resume their peaceful and prosperous living conditions.

(b) With regard to Nagorny Karabakh:

9. The Assembly welcomes the continued dialogue between Armenian and Azeri parliamentarians, particularly as part of the Seminar on the Conflicts in Transcaucasia organized by its Committee on Relations with European Non-Member Countries in Strasbourg, France, on 26 January 1997, and welcomes in this connection the resumption of the activities of the OSCE Minsk Group on Nagorny Karabakh, which it encourages to continue negotiations with a view to securing an early settlement of the conflict.

10. It appeals to all parties to the conflict to intensify direct negotiations with a view to achieving a political settlement to the conflict guaranteeing the restitution of occupied territories and the return of refugees and displaced persons, satisfactory alternative status as well as security for Nagorny Karabakh.

11. Finally, it expresses the wish that in the long run the three Transcaucasian countries - Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia - will envisage creating a community of Transcaucasian States and the setting up of a joint parliamentary assembly.